Boston, Wed. A.M.
Jan. 14, 1852.

My dear Miss Weston,

Whatever of ill-judgment, or even of "swindling", is connected with the disposition of the Screen in Worcester, rests entirely upon my shoulders, — altho' I may add that, so far as I know, the Ladies at Worcester approved of the scheme entirely; — certainly Mrs. Earle did; — though a perusal of your note, and a consideration of all the circumstances, might lead her to alter her mind.

The facts are these; — the Screen, as you know, went to Worcester with 50 Shares taken in Boston at $1. each. — I explained the matter to Mrs. Earle & others, and said that we desired to get fifty shares more taken in Worcester, & then to draw for the possession of it. Or if, at the close of the Fair, it should appear that no more than 25

shares were added in Worcester (making 75 in all), that we would draw it then for the seventy five. – No encouragement was given that even 25 tickets would be taken in Worcester – much less, 50. What was then to be done? The Water Cure Institution was brought to my mind by seeing Dr. Rogers enter the Hall. I thought that such a place, where listless & ennuyé'd persons are apt to be found, (who are in such circumstances amused by trifles), was a very suitable one for such an article. I proposed to Mrs. Earle that an effort should be made to raise $50. by subscription, in Worcester, for the purpose of presenting the Screen to the Water Cure establishment. Mrs. Earle thought it could be done, and liked the plan very much. I told her, in that case I thought the Subscribers in Boston generally, or 40 out of the 50, would consent to such a course – that I would see them, ascertain, and let her know; – and that if any of them

objected, we would refund to such their money. I confess I cannot now, on farther reflection, and looking at the matter from a new point, see anything wrong in this arrangement, anything unfair, anything of which any of the subscribers could rightfully complain. Not one of the Boston subscribers was (as you say) "in good faith entitled to a chance for the Screen, fairly & properly" — unless 100 shares, at $1. each, were taken. If that were done, they were entitled to a chance, beyond all controversy; we proposed indeed even better things for them, viz. to give them 1 chance in 75 instead of 1 in 100. But it was ~~declared~~ decided to be impossible to get 100, or even 75, shares taken. Of course none of the 50 subs. in Boston had a right to a drawing under these circumstances. My next proposition was to consult them & get their consent to the new arrangement, or else pay back their money. On returning to Boston, I looked over the list of Boston subscribers, & felt that I was pretty sure of getting (as I had said) forty out of the fifty dollars subscribed in Boston transferred

to the new arrangement. I then saw persons representing 20 shares, all of whom cheerfully consented to the change. I accordingly wrote to Mrs. Earle that she might proceed with the subscription. As opportunity has occurred, I have spoken to various other subscribers, - told them that the plan of drawing had failed, &c. - that we could not get tickets taken to the number of 75 even (the minimum which any of the Managers in Boston had consented to) - and asked if they were disposed to support the new plan. All such hitherto have approved it.

You lose sight, I think, of the fact that the Raffle had totally failed. The $50. subscribed for that purpose were properly to be refunded. - A new plan was necessary, or the Screen was to be boxed up and kept for another year; - the latter course mortifying to our Leeds friends, as well as contrary to the wishes of the Managers of the Bazaar. I formed a plan, which took

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well in Worcester, for raising $50. there for it; and I felt morally certain of adding $25. to it in Boston, & very probably $40. The Boston subscribers would have no cause to complain that the Screen was not drawn, the condition of the drawing had not been fulfilled. I saw nothing improper in asking them to receive their money again, or give it to the Fair on the new arrangements.

Since, however, this difficulty has arisen, I will (as advised, and in accordance with my own judgment) return their money to those who subscribed in Boston, except to such as have already signified to me their wish not to have it returned, and of whom I am morally sure that the consent is full & hearty, & not reluctant.

I have showed your note, as you requested, and thy my reply to Messrs. Phillips, Hovey, & Garrison, & also to Mr. Bowditch. Mr. Hovey thinks there was nothing wrong in the course pursued with the Screen, but that it was inexpedient from the danger of

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misunderstanding, – that he probably, rather than try any other plan for selling the Screen, should have decided to keep it over to another Fair, and refund the $50. subscribed in Boston. Mr. Phillips said the proposal, on my part, to consult the Boston subscribers, relieved the transaction from all unfairness. Mr. Bowditch & Mr. Garrison think the whole business straight & fair – though the latter thinks that ~~they~~ the Boston subscribers may misapprehend the case. I believe this is a correct statement of their views, so far as it can be made in so few words.

The $50. subscribed in Boston, as you are aware, still remains in my Mother's hands, subject, every dollar of it, to be refunded, unless the original ~~agreement~~ conditions were complied with. After a somewhat laborious experience, we were obliged to ~~conclude~~ that they could not be complied with.

May I ask the favour that you will show this note, or state its substance,

to such friends as may have heard
you express views, & our course at
Worcester, similar to those expressed
in your Note to me of Yesterday.

I am, very truly, Yours

Sam^l. May Jr

Miss Anne W. Weston,
Weymouth.

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